

Morning

PUBLISHES FULL ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT



Astorian.

COVERS THE MORNING FIELD ON THE LOWER COLUMBIA

VOLUME LXIII NO. 1

ASTORIA, OREGON, TUES. DAY, JANUARY 1, 1907

PRICE FIVE CENTS

FIFTY-THREE ARE KILLED

Freight Collides With Express Near Washington.

CAUGHT IN WRECKAGE

Dead and Wounded Number Over a Hundred—Coroner Calls Jury.

CONFLICTING STORIES TOLD

Either Engineer or Operator Must Bear Blame for the Terrible Disaster and Neither Will Shoulder Burden.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The list of dead as the result of the appalling wreck at Terra Cotta, on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad last night had reached 53 at 2 o'clock today, according to the police. Forty-five of the number have been identified. Inquiry at the various hospitals of the city where the injured have been taken, shows a number of persons whose condition is regarded as hopeless. The injured number over 50.

It has been decided to postpone the coroner's inquest until Wednesday. This will be the first official step taken towards fixing the responsibility for the disaster. In the meantime it is understood railroad officials are making a searching investigation.

Two distinct stories are today being told by friends of those who will be naturally implicated. The entrance to the block on which the accident occurred is at Silver Springs, Mo.

It is said local No. 66 from Frederick, had entered the block with a clear track. Two green lights were then set on the signal tower, showing that the block was occupied. The engineer on the "dead train," which was following, accordingly slowed down as he entered the block to run "cautiously." At the Takoma station, near the center of the block, it is said, the day operator had tied down white signals, showing a clear track, and left his station. At this indication the engineer of the "dead" train crowded on all steam and forged ahead at tremendous speed in the dark, foggy night, and on a slippery track. It was only a few minutes until the huge engine of the "dead" train plunged into the rear of the local just pulling out of Terra Cotta, and only three miles from Washington. Operator Phillips, at Takoma, denies that his signals were white. He declares he was at his post, and that red signals were set, showing occupied tracks. He was much astonished to see the "dead train" rush past, and expected it to slow down and back up. Instead, he heard of the accident in a few minutes.

While the wreck has brought the deepest sorrow to scores of Washington homes, a triple portion visited that of Dr. E. O. Belt, who lost his life with his two sons, Edward and St. Clair. Mrs. Belt was at home, nursing the youngest son, Norville, 3 years old, who has a broken leg.

A coroner's jury, which was in session on another case today, formally viewed the bodies at the morgue and postponed further action until Wednesday, by which time all witnesses will have been summoned.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The Baltimore & Ohio wreck at Terra Cotta last night grows in magnitude as the hours pass. The most conservative estimate of the dead is 53, with three score injured. Several of the most

seriously injured are expected to die during the night and the death list may yet reach sixty or more. Heart rending and pitiful were the scenes at the morgue today, where hundreds docked to assist the police in the identification of the dead. Officials are conducting an investigation of the wreck in Baltimore for purpose of placing the responsibility. General Superintendent Todd exonerated Block Signal Operator Phillips at Takoma Station, the last signal the equipment train passed before crashing into the passenger train. The superintendent declared Phillips was obeying instructions when he went home at 6:30 o'clock leaving the "double green" signal burning.

Later, gazing vacantly between the iron bars of his cell at the police station, Engineer Hildebrand tonight too full of sorrow to make any definite prediction. "It will come out tomorrow," he said, "I do not believe there is anything for me to say and I could not say it if there were." Before he was arrested the engineer made a statement to the Associated Press, in which he declared that if the danger signal was displayed at Takoma Station, he failed to see it on account of the dense fog. Operator Phillips, who is held prisoner at the Tenth precinct said today the equipment train ran past his danger signal at a speed of fifty miles an hour. He says there was a heavy fog but not enough to hide the red light. He declares he notified the operators at University Station that an extra train had taken the block against orders. His statement is corroborated by University Station operators, who say they received the message.

CHINA IS STARVING

Four Million Face Famine in the Flowery Kingdom.

WORST IN OVER FORTY YEARS

Thousands Beg for Food, Destitute and Homeless, Joining Secret Societies on the Promise That They Will Receive Rice.

PEKIN, Dec. 31.—Owing to excessive rains and consequent failure of crops, the famine in the North Anhui province, in the east of Honan, and in the whole of North Kiang Si, is worse than at any time in the past forty years. It is estimated that four million people are starving to death. Tens of thousands are utterly destitute and wandering over the country. The danger is increased by the activity of the secret societies, as the wanderers are gladly joining them in order to obtain rice. About fifty thousand refugees have reached the vicinity of Nanking in a pitiable condition. The authorities are unable to cope with the situation.

TALLEST OFFICE BUILDING.

New York Will Have One Fifty Stories in Height.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Announcement was made yesterday of the awarding of the contract for the structural steel for the 700 foot tower which is to complete the block of buildings erected by the Metropolitan Life Company. Out-topped in height by only one other man built structure in the world the Eiffel Tower and nine stories higher than the tallest office building ever planned, the Metropolitan Tower, as the fifty story addition will be known, will cover the plot on which formerly stood the Parkhurst Church at the southeast corner of Madison Avenue and Twenty-fourth street.

NOTED DIVINE DIES.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., Dec. 31.—Rev. Joshua Allan Lippincott, widely known in the East and in the Middle West, both as a divine and as an educator, died here last night. Death followed a brief illness.

MAY FIGHT IN SNOW STORM

Tonopah Has Blizzard But Boxers Will Meet.

PROMOTERS WILL LOSE

Advance Sale of Seats is Slow and Outlook is Bad for Backers.

MANY CAUSES CONTRIBUTE

Local Labor Troubles May Cause Failure of Match—Few Outsiders Are Coming In and Betting is Very Light.

TONOPAH, Dec. 31.—The Gans-Herman fight from indications today will enjoy the unique distinction of having been fought in a heavy snow storm. A snow storm has been raging throughout the day and late into the night at Tonopah, with little promise of early relief. There will be shelter, however, for both fighters and spectators, as the arena has been built with a view to withstanding the elements. That the promoters of the battle will incur financial loss is a foregone conclusion and the advance sale has fallen below all calculations. Manager Riley attributes this to the weather and combinations of local negative influences, such as the strike in the Goldfield mines and dissensions between local restaurant keepers and their help. But few sporting men of national reputation are here and the betting has been almost stagnant, Gans being practically a prohibitive favorite. The ruling odds tonight are 10 to 4 with little Herman money in sight.

The articles call for 133 pounds and the fighters will weigh in at 1 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. Straight Marquis of Queensbury rules will govern the contest. This will permit hitting in clinches so long as one arm is free. Jack Welch will referee. The purse is \$20,000; sixty per cent to the winner. Gans stated tonight that while he trained to go any distance, he believed he would be master of the situation in a very few rounds. Gans added that if he won, he would try to take on Nelson and if the latter refused, he would probably meet Britt before he retires. Herman said this would be the fight of his life and if he falls the pictures will show he was the aggressor throughout. Gans, he said, couldn't go on forever. Herman felt confident he will be the one to lower Gans' colors. The longer the fight lasts, said Herman, the better it would suit him.

DISTURBS COURT.

Woman Who Declares Herself George Pullman's Widow Excited.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Mrs. Lillian Breslin, who asserts she is the widow of George H. Pullman, disturbed the children's court today by demanding an opportunity to speak to Judge Olmstead about the commitment of her son Edmond to the New York Juvenile Asylum on Saturday. She did not appear at that time, but entered court today greatly excited. Court officers quieted her, but in a few moments she tried to open the gate leading to the bench. She was led away, but returned again and shouted, "I demand to see the judge. No summons was served upon me until five hours after my boy was committed."

Then she became hysterical. Judge Olmstead said the boy was committed after proper investigation and he could not release him. He advised her to proceed in the usual way.

WALL STREET PROSPERS.

Enormous Dividends and Interest Will Make This Banner Year.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—There will be distributed during the first month of the New Year in New York City interest and dividends aggregating over \$200,000,000. This is the largest sum that will ever have been paid out to stock and bondholders in the history of well street and marks the end of one of the most prosperous years in the history of the country. While the first half of 1906 was notable for increased distributions to corporate stockholders, through increased or extra dividends, resumption of dividends or beginning of dividends, the second half of the year was even more conspicuous in these respects. Conservation has been the rule in most dividend increases. In the majority of cases the increases have been within the large surplus and shown after the payment of fixed charges.

THREE ARE KILLED.

DANVILLE, Va., Dec. 29.—Joe Bastillo, an Italian laborer, Maggie Sullivan, an American woman, and Lawrence Sullivan, her 12-year-old son, were shot to death at an early hour today at the camp of the railway employees about three miles from here. Fred Ammoti, an Italian, and his son Alie have been charged with the killing.

FIGHT TWO ROBBERS

Night Agent Has Desperate Struggle With Armed Assailants.

ONE THIEF BADLY INJURED

Masked Men Find They Have Caught a Tartar and Retreat Rapidly Into the Darkness, Firing as They Run.

YORK, Neb., Dec. 31.—C. C. Morris, night agent for the Burlington road, grappled with two masked robbers and beat them off at an early hour this morning. One stood guard over him while the other rifled the cash drawer. Grabbing a fire-shovel, Morris struck his guard a stunning blow, rendering him unconscious, then grappled with the robber at the drawer, who had his hands full of money. They fought their way to the platform and were engaged in a terrific struggle when the other robber recovered. He came to the platform and called to his companion, and they ran off in the darkness, firing two shots at the agent, but missing him. The robber at the drawer secured a few dollars and left much more on the floor where it was struck from his hands by the agent. One is injured, for he left a pool of blood where he dropped to the floor.

TREATY PROGRESS SLOW.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 31.—The negotiations for the new treaty between Russia and Japan are progressing slowly. It is stated here that inadmissible conditions prejudicial to Russian economic and political interests such as free navigation on the Sungari, the creation of new consulates, facilities for obtaining passports and customs advantages for Japanese products and complete freedom of fisheries have been rejected by the Russian commissioners.

PRESIDENT RETURNS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—President and Mrs. Roosevelt and party returned tonight from a short visit at Pine Knot, Mrs. Roosevelt's country place.

TRAITOR IN THE PARTY

St. Petersburg Authorities Get Information.

DEMOCRATS BETRAYED

More Than a Hundred Leaders are Captured and Imprisoned.

TERRORISTS ALSO ARRESTED

Russian Police Declare They Found a List of High Officials Who Were Sentenced to be Assassinated by Extremist Party.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 31.—Acting on information furnished by a traitor to the police during the last few days, the police captured more than 100 leaders and members of the St. Petersburg military organization of the Social Democrats who were carrying on a propaganda among the army and navy. Among those taken into custody was the editor of a secretly published paper entitled the Barracks, and 25 soldiers and several women. The police also arrested many members of an important group of Terroristic Social Revolutionists, and captured, according to a report, a list or twenty-seven high officials who had been sentenced to death. Finally, it is asserted, the police accidentally obtained information which frustrated a plot to blow up a number of persons at a conference which was to be held in the future.

The recent arrests of members of the military organization which was responsible for the Sveaborg and Cronstadt outbreaks and the mutinies on board warships of the Baltic squadron in August last have been reported from various places in the interior, notably at Moscow, to which city the central committee was transferred after the police had twice broken up the headquarters at Vilna. Six officers, including Colonel Klopoff, who had distinguished themselves in their respective services, were captured while holding a conference at Moscow.

Lieutenant Emil Jonoff, who was executed at Sveaborg fortress in August for participation in the mutiny, also was a member of this organization.

The propaganda in the army and navy is now the chief work of the so-called majority faction of the Social Democrats, which, after the civilian insurrectionists of last winter had been crushed by the military force, decided that the government could only be overthrown by subverting the army. The minority faction, which is now numerically stronger than the majority faction, has foresworn vengeance and has adopted resolution in favor of purely political activity, as in Germany. The two factions now are virtually independent.

COLORADO OVERFLOWS.

Unless Government Interferes Two Valleys Will be Inundated.

IMPERIAL, Dec. 31.—Heavy rain now falling further complicating the serious situation on the lower Colorado. Floods of water of the Gila and Sale Rivers are now pouring into the larger river, which tonight washed away ten bents of the new trestle from which it was intended to begin dumping rock in a day or two. As the time for closing the break is limited, this renders the situation more

limited. It is becoming daily more apparent that unless the government comes to the rescue, the situation will be hopeless for the residents of the Imperial and Coachella Valleys. There is no menace to lives of the people but unless the river is conquered, the country must become untenable for its ten or twelve thousand residents.

PEOPLE ARE SUSPICIOUS.

Russians Look With Doubt Upon Campaign Promises of Government.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 31.—The electoral campaign of the government here, is making but poor progress. The provincial governors report that they are making no headway in their efforts to placate the people with the mere promises of Stolypin, Minister of the Interior. The leader of the Moscow Conservative party expects that the Douma will contain a social revolutionary element which will make the career of the house impossible beyond a few weeks.

STATUE FOR NOVELIST.

PARIS, Dec. 31.—Announcement was made here Saturday that a rich man, impressed by reading "Paul and Virginia," bequeathed \$10,000 to the state for a statue of Bernardin De Saint Pierre. The commission was given to sculptor Holweck, whose cast has been made. It shows Bernardin seated on a hillock apparently listening to the song of nature, while in one hand he holds a book which nature has made him forget.

SPREADING FLAMES

Tongues of Fire Followers Spring Up at Albany City.

MEMBER HAS A LONG TRANCE

Strange "Religion" Spreads Rapidly and is Creating Excitement in the Valley Town—Outsiders Try to See Show.

ALBANY, Dec. 31.—The "Tongues of Fire" have broken loose in Albany. A Mennonite mission, established here a month ago, has adopted the strange rites under the teachings of two emissaries from the Salem branch of the "Tongues." The noises and scenes which now characterize the meetings of the local branch equal the Holy Rollers in their days of notoriety.

The Mennonite mission in which the "Tongues of Fire" have secured a foothold here, is located on First street, in the heart of the business section of Albany, and directly opposite the postoffice. For several days the noises which have been emanating from there have attracted some attention, but no one has been attending the meetings but the "faithful." Saturday it became known that Ubbe Peters, a prominent German farmer living near Albany, who has long been a religious street worker, had lain in a trance for two hours after midnight that morning. It was then learned that Mrs. Reese and H. Williams, two of the Salem "Tongues," had arrived here Friday and had furnished the inspiration for one of the liveliest scenes ever seen in any land. The mysterious unknown tongues played a prominent part in this meeting.

Knowing that the "Tongues" were here, a number of people attended the meeting Saturday evening, but it was ostensibly closed at 10 o'clock when fervor had been worked up to a high pitch. It is now learned that a few of the worshippers then retired to an upstairs room in the mission building and there kept up the rites until an early hour yesterday morning.

SWEDEN'S KING ILL.

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 31.—King Oscar's sleep today was very much disturbed. His condition tonight is serious.